there is no reason to apprehend that by the diversion of this 300 cusecs the flood conditions in that area will be made worse.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether the Government have taken up the Chowwerah drainage scheme.

Mr V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* That question has not been taken up.

IMPROVEMENT OF ERNAKULAM TOWN

214. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have any scheme for improving and modernising the Ernakulam Town;

(*b*) is it the policy of the Government to discontinue the several schemes for town improvement started by Sir Shanmukham Chetty when he was the Diwan of our State;

(*c*) was there not a scheme for constructing a suitable High Court buildings at Ernakulam; if so, what has been the fate of that scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) Improvements in the Ernakulam Town are being continuously done both by Government and by the Municipality. There are also schemes for asphalting roads, and installing drainage systems under consideration.

(*b*) The conditions caused by war have adversely affected the taking up of schemes of town improvement.

(*c*) Yes. The proposal to construct a separate block of buildings to house the High Court has been postponed for the present.

Announcement of election of members to the Standing Finance Committee

Mr. President: I now have to announce that nomination papers for the election of three non-official members to the Standing Finance Committee will be received by the Secretary to the Council up to 5 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, 21st March.

Announcement of election of a member to the Advisory Committee for Agriculture, Panchayat, Etc.

I have further to announce that a member will be elected for the Advisory Committee for Agriculture, Panchayats, etc., to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. V. J. Mathai, at 5 p.m. on Thursday, 23rd March. Nomination papers for the election will be received by the Legislative Council Secretary up to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 22nd March 1944.

Announcement of Bills assented to by His Highness

Secretary to the Council: Under S. O. 5(2) of the Legislative Council, I have to announce that the following Bills have received the gracious assent of His Highness the Maharaja.

The Cochin Payment of Wages Act (Amendment) Bill, Act IV of 1119.

The Cochin Municipal Act (Amendment) Bill, Act VI of 1119.

Placing of the statement of expenditure

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Sir, under Rule 58 of the Legislative Council Rules, I beg to place the following statement of expenditure authorised by Government under section 28(1)(c) of the Government of Cochin Act, 1113.

Serial No.	*Head of Account*	*Amount Rs.*	*Remarks*
	Cranganur (1118) 11 Law and Justice B4, Civil Justice Dearness allowance	452	The dearness allowance to the low paid staff was enhanced in the course of the year and there was no Budget provision. The amount required for the purpose had therefore to be transferred urgent from the head "Munsiffs" pay and leave allowance

Supplementary Grants

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, may I club items 1 to 5.

Mr. President: Yes.

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